

What is claimed is:

1. An implantable device for changing the spatial relationship between first and second bones, the device comprising a body configured and dimensioned for insertion into a joint located between the first and second bones and coated with a bone growth promoting material, wherein the bone growth promoting material includes a bone morphogenic protein.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes demineralized bone.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein the demineralized bone is a powder.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes collagen.
5. The device of claim 4 wherein the collagen is in the form of apatite compositions with collagen.
6. The device of claim 4 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes demineralized bone.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the demineralized bone is a powder.
8. The device of claim 1 wherein the body has an open cellular structure to provide cavities in which bone can grow through.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein the body is made of a biocompatible metallic material.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein the body is made of tantalum.
11. The device of claim 9 wherein the body is made of stainless steel.

- 12. The device of claim 8 wherein the body includes a compartment for holding bone growth inducing material.
- 13. The device of claim 8 wherein at least some of the cavities contain a bone growth promoting material.
- 14. The device of claim 1 further including fastener means for fixedly connecting the body to at least one of the first and second bones.
- 15. The device of claim 14 wherein the fastener means includes at least one screw.
- 16. The device of claim 14 wherein the fastener means includes a first connector configured and dimensioned to connect the body to the first bone and a second connector configured and dimensioned to connect the body to the second bone.
- 17. The device of claim 1 wherein the body tapers from a trailing end portion to a leading end portion.
- 18. The device of claim 17 wherein the body has superior and inferior faces and a side surface therebetween.
- 19. The device of claim 18 wherein at least a portion of the side surface has a configuration corresponding to at least a section of an outer side surface of one of the first and second bones.